



Mid-America Theatre Conference NEWSLETTER

Volume 17

Number 1

October 1995

Dear Colleagues:

It is with mixed feelings of excitement and trepidation that I assume the duties of President of MATC: excitement because I believe strongly in the excellence of MATC and its past record and potential for being a major force in the world of the academic theatre; trepidation because there are challenges that we must meet and overcome if MATC is to continue to grow and prosper. I'm excited to be working with Lynn-Steven Johanson as our new Vice President/President-Elect and Noreen Barnes McLain as our new Secretary/Treasurer. My profound thanks and appreciation go to Suzanne Burgoyne, who led us so ably as President, and Tom Mitchell, our retiring Secretary/Treasurer. They're a tough act to follow. In particular, I must acknowledge the immense contributions made by retiring Executive Secretary Glenn Q. Pierce, who did more than anyone else over the past several years to keep MATC running smoothly and efficiently. We're going to miss him very much, particularly as we new officers realize that all the things that Glenn was doing now have to be done by someone else.

The October Newsletter is traditionally the one in which all the details for registration for the annual convention are announced. This one is no exception. So begin now to make plans for submitting proposals and making arrangements to attend MATC 1996, March 14-17, at the Arlington Park Hilton in Arlington Heights, IL (close to O'Hare--free shuttle from the airport to the hotel and back--and a \$3.50 train ride to the Loop). Please read the Symposia topics carefully and be sure to submit your proposals by the deadlines. **Please note that the deadline for the 1996 Theatre History Symposium is 1 November and not the 1 December deadline of the other symposia.** You'll only have about a month to get a proposal ready, but theatre people work best under tight deadlines, don't they? Also note that **if you need any audio-visual equipment it is essential that you include your equipment needs in your proposal:** if you don't, it's virtually certain that you won't have such equipment available if you decide later that you need it. The cost for audio-visual equipment rental is very high; Symposia coordinators are asked to schedule panels so as to minimize equipment rental time. **IMPORTANT: We need to encourage a good turn-out for student auditions and interviews. Please encourage your students to attend our auditions.** Graduate advisors: please encourage your students to submit a paper for the "Young Scholars' Symposium, chaired by Sarah Blackstone.

As always we are eager that attendance at the Conference is high. That means that we all have to do our part to publicize the Conference and the various Symposia. Although the MATC mailing list was "purged" last year to eliminate out-of-date mailing addresses, a brief glance through the current mailing list showed me that there are still a lot of addresses that are no longer current--at least a half-dozen from my department alone. So when you get this mailing, check your departmental "dead letter" pile and, if you see any Newsletters addressed to people who are no longer at your institution, please don't just toss them--re-address them and send them on (even if it means that you'll have to spring for a stamp or two). And while you're at it, send me their correct address so that I can continue up-dating our mailing list. And don't keep the information in this Newsletter to yourselves: any or all of this may be photocopied and passed along to your colleagues who might not be receiving it. Don't forget your colleagues in other departments, particularly, this year, film studies. If you'd like extra copies of the Newsletter for distribution, let me know and I'll supply them.

We're also hoping for a good turn-out for student actor auditions and technical/design interviews. We're planning some more aggressive marketing to try to increase the number of both student auditionees and auditioning companies. The fact that we're in the Chicago area again this year should help, but we can't count on that alone to do the job. So we encourage you to encourage your students to register for our auditions and attend the conference. Remind them that in addition to auditions we have a good program of specialized and valuable production workshops for them to attend when they're not auditioning.

The Arlington Park Hilton looks to be a very good venue for our Conference, with a very friendly and helpful staff. Glenn Pierce's preliminary work ensured that we will have a good separation between the audition and production workshop spaces and the Symposia, so the problems we have had in the past with Symposia being disrupted by noise won't happen this year. Although

(Continued on back page)

MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

Theatre History Symposium 1996

"The Unreal Verisimilitude: Cinema and Theatre's First Century of Co-Existence"

In 1893, due to a routing error, Chicago's Columbian Exposition narrowly missed being the first site of a kinetoscope demonstration. Cinema has since become an unavoidable and seminal influence on the Mid-West and the world, emblematic of the role of the machine in making mass culture. Until its "virtual" offspring usurps the live interaction considered a defining element of performance, the projected image and live theatre still co-exist...even, at times, productively.

In 1996, the Theatre History symposium marks the centenary of the first motion pictures in vaudeville houses and music halls (1896), and a century of co-existence between cinema and theatre. Proposals are invited on--but are not limited to--the following topics:

- cinema as an outgrowth of theatre's fascination with optical trickery, illusions of motion, projections, peep shows, photography, and any and all technologies of making and viewing, or ways of capturing images and manipulating vision;
- the reciprocal impact of theatrical and cinematic aesthetics anywhere in the world;
- the influence of the cinema industry's epicenters (e.g., Hollywood, Berlin, Bombay) on theatrical activity and cultural production;
- examination of what constitutes "real drama" whether in the sense meant by Belasco (an economic distinction) or the philosophical;
- formative influences on the genres of cinema and their relationship with other cultural categories;
- descriptions of theatre audiences' behavior, viewing, and social identifications, as treated by scholarship: how has spectating become as legitimate a subject of study as other categories of performance;
- adaptations from stage to screen and screen to stage;
- the economics of cinema and the reconfiguration of leisure as an entertainment industry;
- relationships between the apparati of cinema and theatre, whether from theoretical or technological perspectives;
- questions of performance technique and the transmission of acting traditions from stage to film and back again;
- the transmission of myth through "paradigmatic forms," such as publicity, iconography, gossip, etc.

Proposals should be no longer than two pages. Since papers will be delivered as oral presentations of fifteen to twenty minutes long, speakers should aspire to clarity, concision, and an avoidance of jargon (theoretical or technical) and of obscurity. **Proposals must indicate whether the presentation requires audio-visual enhancement.** (The Conference will supply slide projectors, screens and VHS players and monitors.) Proposals may be sent to either of the co-chairs. **Deadline for proposals: 1 November 1995.**

Co-Chairs: Tracy C. Davis, Dept. of Theatre, Northwestern Univ., 1979 Sheridan Rd., Evanston IL 60208-2430; Laurence Senelick, Dept. of Drama, Leir Hall, Tufts Univ., Medford MA 02155

Young Scholars' Symposium 1996

This a debut panel, with submission open to any currently-enrolled undergraduate or graduate student who has never presented at a regional or national conference. Twenty-minute papers on any theatre-related topic will be considered. Submissions must be accompanied by a nominating letter from a faculty member at the student's institution.

Send proposals **before December 1, 1995** to Sarah J. Blackstone, Dept. of Theatre-6608, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL 62901-6608. **Note any audio-visual needs.**

Directing Symposium 1996

"The Evolving Craft of the Stage Director"

Since the beginning of the modern period, the craft of the stage director has evolved through experimentation with and development of new approaches, strategies, methods, and techniques for directing plays. Changing styles and new philosophies have created challenges, controversies, and innovative solutions, while at the same time, placing new demands on the teaching of directorial skills. As we are about to enter the 21st century, how has the director's craft changed, and where is it heading? The Directing Symposium seeks paper, panel, or workshop proposals addressing some aspect of the evolving craft of the stage director.

Send proposals **before December 1, 1995** to the MATC Directing Symposium Co-Chairs: Egla Hassan and Lynn-Steven Johanson, Department of Theatre, Western Illinois University, Macomb IL 61455 (309-298-1543); FAX 390-298-2695. **Note any audio-visual needs.**

**PRODUCING THEATRE COMPANY INFORMATION
AND REGISTRATION FORM**

MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE

March 14, 15, 16, 17, 1996

Arlington Park Hilton, Arlington Heights, IL

The following information will be posted during the conference. In addition, a list of companies, contact personnel and addresses will be distributed to auditionees and interviewees.

Name of Producing Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Contact Person: _____ **Title:** _____

Phone Number(s): _____ **FAX:** _____

Type of Program (summer stock, Equity, touring, outdoor drama, etc.): _____

Any Union affiliations? (please explain): _____

Season Productions: _____

Residency Period: _____

Positions Available: _____

Salary/Stipend range: _____

- ☐ Apprenticeships available ☐ Internships available ☐ Academic credit available
- ☐ We will be attending the Friday (March 15) and Saturday (March 16) auditions (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- ☐ We will be attending the Sunday (March 17) technical/design interviews (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)
- ☐ We will be attending the dance auditions (following auditions on Friday and Saturday)
- ☐ We plan to attend the auditions/interviews but cannot commit at this time. Please contact us again in January.

Additional comments: _____

Please return this sheet, along with your check for \$45.00 (payable to **Mid-America Theatre Conference**) to: Noreen Barnes-Mclain, Department of Theater--Mail Code 6608, Communications Bldg. 1033, SIU, Carbondale, IL 62901-6608. Please note that there is no added fee for producing companies who will be auditioning/interviewing. At the Conference we will have a table available near the audition/interview site should you wish to display any brochures, pictures, etc.

For hotel reservations please contact: Arlington Park Hilton, 3400 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1052; 1-800-HILTONS. **Be sure to tell them that you're attending MATC** to receive the special \$82.00 single or double room rate. You must make your reservations before 15 February, 1996.



MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE

TECHNICAL/DESIGN INTERVIEW APPLICATION

March 17, 1996

Please TYPE and fill out completely.

PLEASE CHECK PREFERENCE(S)

NAME (first, middle, last) _____

☐ DESIGN ☐ SETS ☐ LIGHTS ☐ SOUND

PERMANENT ADDRESS (street, city, state, ZIP) _____

☐ COSTUMES ☐ PROPS ☐ MAKEUP

PRESENT ADDRESS (street, city, state, ZIP) _____

☐ STAGE MANAGEMENT ☐ BOX OFFICE

PHONE (home) _____

PHONE (current) _____

E-Mail _____

☐ OTHER: _____

DATES AVAILABLE (from -- to) _____

Production Experience

Production Title

Production Assignment

Producing Organization

References

Please provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three people who are familiar with and can speak to your work.

I certify that the above information is correct, and I have no prior commitments during the employment period specified above.

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Instructor/Supervisor _____

Print Name and Title of
Instructor/Supervisor _____

(Your Instructor/Supervisor must sign this form. Applicant will NOT be interviewed if form is not signed by a qualified person.)

Make MONEY ORDER or CERTIFIED CHECK for \$30.00 (no personal checks will be accepted) payable to MID-AMERICA THEATRE CONFERENCE, and mail along with completed application (DO NOT attach a separate sheet, resume, or portfolio) and self-addressed stamped business-sized envelope to:

Rick Plummer

INTERACT Teen-to-Teen Theatre
711 No. Providence Rd.
Columbia, MO 65203

Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 1996. Late registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis until all audition/interview slots are filled, and will be charged a late-fee of \$35.00. Fees will be returned if slots are unavailable.

ACTOR AUDITIONS AND TECHNICAL/DESIGN INTERVIEWS

MARCH 14, 15, 16, 17, 1996

ARLINGTON PARK HILTON, Arlington Heights, IL

Auditions

Auditions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16. Dance auditions will be held as soon after the acting/singing auditions as is convenient; approximately 5:15 to 7:30. Callbacks will be held at the discretion of each company manager following the dance auditions. Use the registration form printed on the reverse side of this sheet to make your registration.

Audition Format: Each auditionee should prepare a **maximum** of two (2) minutes of material which may include monologue(s) and/or song(s). An accompanist will be provided. Please bring your own music (easily readable and in the correct key). An audio cassette tape deck will be provided should you prefer to use it (please make sure your tape is properly cued). Anyone going over the two-minute time-limit will be cut off by the timekeeper. You should bring at least 25 pictures and résumés with you to the auditions.

Interviews

Interviews for those seeking technical and design positions will be held on Sunday, March 17, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. until noon. Use the form at the bottom of this page to register. Each theatre organization needing to fill technical/design positions will be present Sunday morning to interview prospective candidates. You should check in at the designated room (to be posted at the Conference) by 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning with your portfolio, résumé and any other materials you wish to share. Bring at least 15 copies of your résumé with you to the interviews.

Fees

All auditionees and interviewees must be registered for the Conference. **Total cost for participation in auditions is \$30.00.** Applications and registration forms should be postmarked no later than 15 February 1996. Late registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until all audition/interview slots are filled, and will be charged \$35.00. Fees will be returned if slots are unavailable. **Please note that your registration fee entitles you to attend any of the many exciting and very helpful Production Workshops which will be presented during the course of the 4-day Conference.** We encourage you to attend them when you are not involved in the auditions/interviews.

The following are some of the many MATC past-participating companies: Arrowrock Lyceum Theatre, Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Climb Theatre, Commonweal Theatre, Dakota Prairie Regional Center for the Arts, Diamond Circle Melodrama, Emporia Summer Theatre, For A Good Time Theatre Company, Golden Eagle Riverboat Theatre, Highland Summer Theatre, Iowa Shakespeare Project, Knott's Camp Snoopy, National Shakespeare Conservatory, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Northern Lights Playhouse, The Old Creamery Theatre, The Post Playhouse, Inc., St. Croix Festival Theatre, Straw Hat Players, Stage Door Players, Stage West Entertainment, Inc., Tecumseh!, Theatre West, University of Northern Iowa Summer Theatre, University Theatre--Summerfest, University of Western Michigan's Cherry County Playhouse.

Auditions and Interviews 1996

Continuing a long tradition, MATC will be hosting auditions and interviews for student performers, designers and technicians seeking summer or seasonal employment. We anticipate a large number of students to audition. Actor auditions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16. Dance auditions will be held on those two days from approximately 5:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Technical/Design interviews will be held Sunday, March 17, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. **Registrations must be postmarked by 15 February, 1996.** For registration forms and additional information, contact the Coordinator: Rick Plummer, Director, INTERACT: Teen-to-Teen Theatre, Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri, 711 N. Providence Rd., Columbia, MO 65201. Phone: (314) 449-2475.

Theater for Youth 1996

"Comparing and Connecting: Interfacing Theater for Youth with Dramatic and Electronic Media"

Is virtual reality a possibility in your classroom? How about using computer delivery for theatre in education? Have you experimented with technology in a production? At MATC 1996 Theater for Youth is focusing on the link between electronic media and the dramatic arts for young people. We invite submissions for panels, presentations and performances that emphasize the connectedness of theater for youth to the technological frontier. Submissions that focus on the application and incorporation of the National Standards in relation to electronic media and other technological tools are of particular interest. **Send proposals before December 1, 1995** to the Theater for Youth Co-Chairs: Gretta Berghammer, Dept. of Theatre, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls IA 50614 (e-mail Berghammer@uni.edu) and Nancy Hovasse, Dept. of Theatre, 4-122 Krannert, 500 S. Goodwin, University of Illinois, Urbana IL 61801 (e-mailhovasse@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu). **Indicate any audio-visual needs. Note: MATC cannot supply equipment other than slide projectors and VHS players/monitors.**

Production Workshops 1996

We are seeking workshops which will provide educational experiences for students auditions at the conference. Workshop length: 1 hour, 15 minutes. **Include any audio-visual needs; special items cannot be provided by the conference.** Submit a one-page description of the workshop and a one-paragraph description for program copy **before December 1, 1995** to Lynn-Steven Johanson, Department of Theatre, Western Illinois University, Macomb IL 61455.

... and looking ahead ...

Theatre History Symposium 1997

"Theatre and Its Audience: What Makes Theatre Popular?"

As Congress works to balance the budget, public funding for the Arts could very well become a thing of the past. As theatre is asked to "pay for itself," it is time that we examine the various ways that audiences might be attracted to theatre productions and ways in which we might make our art more accessible to a wider range of tastes. In 1997, The Theatre History Symposium invites proposals on such topics as: all forms of theatrical popular entertainment, contemporary and historic; the commercial success but critical failure of performers, plays, or theatres (and, of course, vice versa); examination of how we define theatre and what we choose to exclude from this category; the creation of myth and/or national identity through theatrical events; the ways in which audiences receive meaning and the ways in which we project meaning from the stage; the control of plays and productions by authors or other authorities; censorship in its many forms; the economics of the theatre; the impact of violence on audiences, the ethics of production choices for actors and audiences.

For full information on the 1997 Theatre History Symposium, see *Theatre History Studies* or contact: Sarah J. Blackstone, Dept. of Theater-6608, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL 62901-6608.

the hotel is fairly far removed from the Loop, there is a shuttle to the nearby train station, so it shouldn't be too hard to get downtown. And the hotel itself is reasonably-priced and very attractive, having just undergone a complete renovation. The rooms are large with king-size beds, large TVs and video games. Parking is free (if outside). The hotel has an indoor pool and health spa, free to guests, with a weight room, sauna, and massage. There are two restaurants and two bars. When you call the reservation number (1-800-HILTONS), you need to tell them that it's the Arlington Park Hilton, **that you'll be attending MATC and want the conference rate of \$82.00 a night (single or double)**. A charge of \$10.00 will be added for each additional person sharing a room. Children under 17 sharing a room with parents are free. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m. **Reservations must be made by 15 February 1996 in order to secure these rates.** Reservations requested after 15 February will be subject to availability of space and rates.

Kudos to *Theatre History Studies*: Editor Bob Schanke has informed us that H. W. Wilson Publishers will be including *THS* in *Humanities Index*, beginning with the current 1995 issue. Bob sees this as a major breakthrough for *THS*, since many libraries have resisted subscribing until the time that *THS* was included in one of the major indexes. So inform your librarian, and if your library doesn't yet subscribe to *THS*, urge them to do so. I know most libraries are doing their best under limited budgets, particularly when it comes to journals, so we need to do our best to convince our libraries that *THS* is a "must-have" journal. We can be very proud of the status that *Theatre History Studies* has achieved in the world of theatre history, and, of course, the glory reflected on MATC.

Call for Papers: The International Society of Fine Arts, Aesthetics and Phenomenology will hold its next convention on: "Creative Impulse: Expression and Form" in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 17-19 April, 1996. Abstracts are due 1 February; papers, 1 March. Submit to: M. E. Kronegger, OHB, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA.

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